

latter had the teeth of *Odontaspis*, whereas the other had the teeth in the upper jaw furnished with cross serrations, approaching in this respect *Galeocerdo*, while the teeth in the lower jaw were more like those of *Odontaspis*.

Mr. Sclater read a letter with enclosures from Mr. R. Davenport, of 124 Georgiana Street, Bury, whereby it appeared that there could be no doubt of the specimen of the Black-throated Wheatear (*Saxicola stapazina*) exhibited at the last meeting having been obtained in Lancashire, as there stated<sup>1</sup>. The bird was shot by Mr. David Page, of 103 Spring Street, Bury, on or about the 8th May, 1875, whilst sitting on the ridge of the outbuildings belonging to the Bury Angling Association near the reservoir. It was taken in the flesh to Mr. Wright Johnson, of Prestwick, to be mounted. Mr. Johnson had ascertained the sex by dissection to be male.

The Secretary called attention to the error that had accidentally taken place in reference to the Collection of Butterflies from Billiton, on which Messrs. Salvin and Godman had reported in the last number of the Society's 'Proceedings' (*antea*, p. 637). The collection had been made and forwarded to England by Hr. J. G. F. Riedel, of Koepang, Resident of Timor and its dependencies.

The following papers were read:—

1. On Reptiles from Midian collected by Major Burton. By  
Dr. ALBERT GÜNTHER, F.R.S., F.Z.S.

[Received October 31, 1878.]

(Plate LXII.)

Major Burton has kindly presented to the Trustees of the British Museum the zoological specimens collected by him in Midian<sup>2</sup>. The reptiles are five in number, viz. *Gongylus ocellatus*, *Zamenis clifordii*, *Zamenis elegantissimus* (sp. n.), *Echis carinata*, and *Echis colorata* (sp. n.),—all of which are characteristic of the Circum-mediterranean fauna. A toad proved to be the common *Bufo vulgaris*.

Major Burton does not seem to have had the means of preserving any mammals and birds; and it is to be hoped that travellers who may succeed him in the exploration of this interesting country will be more fortunate in this respect, as, at present, we are entirely ignorant of this part of the Midianitish fauna.

ZAMENIS ELEGANTISSIMUS. (Plate LXII.)

The body is moderately slender, head rather narrow, eye of moderate size. Rostral shield convex, reaching the upper surface of the head. The scutes of the upper surface of the head are not

<sup>1</sup> Above p. 881.

<sup>2</sup> See Burton's 'Gold-mines of Midian,' London, C. Kegan Paul & Co., 1878.

subdivided : anterior frontals much smaller than the posterior ; vertical large, broad in front, with the lateral margins concave ; occipitals rounded behind. Loreal nearly square ; three ante-oculars, the upper of which is large, concave, extending onto the vertical shield ; the two lower are small, and may be regarded as detached portions of the fourth upper labial. Two postoculars ; eight upper labials, of which the fifth enters the orbit. Temporals scale-like,  $2+3+3$ , the lower of the anterior pair being larger than the upper. The scales smooth, in 19 rows. Ventrals 197 ; anal bifid ; subcaudals 79. Abdomen with a slight ridge on each side.

The ground colour of this most beautiful snake is olive ; a bright orange streak begins on the vertical shield and runs along the entire median line of the back and tail. It is interrupted by broad black cross bands, of which the two anterior occupy the crown of the head, twenty-one encircle the trunk, and eight the tail. The bands on the trunk do not reach across the middle of the abdomen ; but the rings on the tail are complete.

The length of the entire specimen is 26 inches, that of the tail being  $6\frac{1}{2}$ . It was found on the mountains east of El Muwayláh.

ZAMENIS CLIFFORDII, Schleg.

A young specimen from the sandy coast-region of Tihamat Midian.

ECHIS CARINATA, Merr.

One specimen from the sandy coast-region.

ECHIS COLORATA.

This specimen approaches the true Vipers in general habit ; but the scales on the side are arranged in the same peculiar manner which is characteristic of *Echis*. In the thickest part of the body the scales form about 35 longitudinal series. There are four series of small scales between the eye and the upper labials. Greyish with large pinkish spots on the upperside ; they are rounded on the front part of the body, but more irregular and broken up on the posterior. Lower parts whitish, speckled and powdered with greyish.

Ventrals 208 ; subcaudals 48.

The single example, which is much injured, was caught on Jebel Shárr, at an altitude of 4500 feet above the level of the sea. It is 27 inches long, the thin tail measuring 3 inches only.

2. On a new Species of *Sylvia* from Abyssinia, and on some other Abyssinian Sylvians. By HENRY SEEBOHM, F.Z.S.

[Received November 7, 1878.]

The only species of the genus *Sylvia* obtained by Jesse on the Abyssinian expedition, was the common Whitethroat. This species was also obtained by Blanford ; and in addition he records (Geol. and